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Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for collection of blood comprising:

positioning a body portion, from which blood is to be withdrawn, within a shield member such that the shield member is generally disposed between the body portion and a hand of a user, the shield member having a planar bottom portion without any downwardly extending portions at ends thereof;

stabilizing the body portion within the shield member solely using a digit of the user's hand; and

inserting an insertion member of a blood extraction device into the body portion such that the shield member is generally disposed between the insertion member and the user's hand.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising holding the shield member in one hand of the user while accomplishing said inserting using another hand of the user.

Claims 3-4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (currently amended): The method of claim 1 ~~further comprising providing a wherein the shield member, one portion of which is configured to be held in said one hand, the shield member including and another portion of which is configured and arranged to receive the body portion.~~

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 5 wherein the another portion of the provided shield member includes a surface recess extending along an axis of the shield member, in which is received the body portion.

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Claim 7 (currently amended): The method of claim 6 wherein the recess and said ~~one~~ bottom portion of the provided shield member is each one of arcuate or polygonal in cross-section.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 7 wherein the provided shield member is configured and arranged so as to be in the general shape of a hollow tube cut in half along its length.

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising withdrawing blood from the body portion using the blood extraction device following said step of inserting.

Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 9 further comprising:
stopping the withdrawal of blood; and
withdrawing the insertion member of the blood extraction device from the body portion.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 further comprising:
stopping the withdrawal of blood;
withdrawing the insertion member of the blood extraction device from the body portion;
removing the digit of the user's hand; and
removing the body portion from the shield member.

Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the blood is umbilical cord blood.

Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the body portion is the umbilical cord, wherein said inserting includes inserting the insertion member into the umbilical cord.

Claim 14 (original): The blood collection method of claim 13 further comprising withdrawing cord blood from the umbilical cord using the blood extraction device following the step of inserting the insertion member.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 14 wherein the blood extraction device comprises a needle and syringe.

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Claim 16 (currently amended): A method for collection of umbilical cord blood comprising:
positioning an umbilical cord within a shield member, the shield member having a planar bottom portion without any downwardly extending portions at ends thereof;
stabilizing the umbilical cord within the shield member solely using a digit of the user's hand; and
contacting the umbilical cord with a blood extraction device.

Claim 17 (original): The method of claim 16 wherein the shield member is generally disposed between the cord and a hand of a medical practitioner.

Claim 18 (original): The method of claim 16 wherein the blood extraction device comprises a needle and syringe.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A shielding device comprising:
a cradle member, said cradle member being configured so ~~one portion~~ a planar bottom portion thereof is held in a hand of a user, without any downwardly extending portions at ends thereof, so and another portion thereof of the cradle member receives an umbilical cord, and so a digit of the user's hand secures and stabilizes the umbilical cord in the another portion while holding the cradle member wherein the shielding device does not include any type of fastening mechanism such that the digit of the user's hand solely fastens the umbilical cord to the cradle member.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The shield device of claim 19 wherein said another portion includes a surface recess extending along an axis of the cradle member, in which recess is received the umbilical cord.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The shield device of claim ~~19~~ 20 wherein the recess is one of arcuate or polygonal in cross-section.

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Claim 22 (currently amended): The shield device of claim 20 wherein said ~~one~~ bottom portion is configured so as to be one of arcuate or polygonal in cross-section.

Claim 23 (original): The shield device of claim 19 wherein the cradle member is configured and arranged so as to be in the general shape of a hollow tube cut in half along its length.

Claim 24 (original): The shield device of claim 19 wherein the cradle member is made from stainless steel and/or medical grade plastic.

Claim 25 (currently amended): An apparatus for extracting cord blood from an umbilical cord comprising:

a shielding device comprising a cradle member, said cradle member being configured and arranged so ~~one~~ a planar bottom portion thereof is held in a hand of a user, without any downwardly extending portions at ends thereof, so and another portion thereof of the cradle member receives the umbilical cord, and so a digit of the user's hand secures and stabilizes the umbilical cord in said another portion while holding the cradle member; and

a blood extraction device including an insertion member being configured so as to be inserted into the umbilical cord and to withdraw cord blood therefrom

wherein the shielding ~~member device~~ is devoid of mechanisms for fastening the umbilical cord to the shielding ~~member device~~.

Claim 26 (currently amended): A blood collection device kit comprising:

a shielding device including a cradle member, said cradle member being configured and arranged so ~~one~~ a planar bottom portion thereof is held in a hand of a user, without any downwardly extending portions at ends thereof, so and another portion thereof of the cradle member receives an umbilical cord, and so a digit of the user's hand secures and stabilizes the umbilical cord in said another portion while holding the cradle member and wherein the shielding device is devoid of mechanisms for fastening the umbilical cord to the shielding device.

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Claim 27 (previously presented): The blood collection kit of claim 26 further comprising a blood extraction device including an insertion member that is configured to be inserted into the umbilical cord and to withdraw blood therefrom.

Claim 28 (currently amended): The blood collection kit of claim ~~26~~27 wherein the cradle member is configured and arranged so as to be in the general shape of a hollow tube cut in half along its length and the blood extraction device comprises a needle and syringe.

Claim 29 (original): The blood collection kit of claim 26 wherein the cradle member is configured and arranged so as to be in the general shape of a hollow tube cut in half along its length.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The blood collection kit of claim 26, wherein said another portion includes a surface recess extending along an axis of the cradle member, in which recess is received the umbilical cord and wherein the recess is one of arcuate or polygonal in cross-section.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The blood collection kit of claim 26 wherein the recess is configured and arranged to receive the umbilical cord therein.

Claim 32 (original): The blood collection kit of claim 27 wherein the blood extraction device comprises a needle and syringe.

Claim 33 (original): The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of covering at least an end of the insertion member following said withdrawing the insertion member from the body portion.

Claim 34 (currently amended): A method for collection of blood from an umbilical cord (cord blood), comprising:

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providing a shield member, ~~one a planar bottom~~ portion of which is configured to be held in one hand of a user without any downwardly extending portions at ends thereof, and another portion of ~~which the shield member~~ is configured to receive the umbilical cord, wherein the another portion includes a surface recess extending along an axis of the shield member, in which is received the umbilical cord and wherein the recess and the one portion are each arcuate in cross-section;

holding the shield member with one hand of a user;

positioning the umbilical cord within the shield member such that the shield member is generally disposed between the umbilical cord and the one hand;

stabilizing the umbilical cord within the shield member solely using a digit of the user's hand while holding the shield member using the one hand;

inserting an insertion member of a blood extraction device into the umbilical cord using another hand of the user such that the shield member is generally disposed between the insertion member and the one hand; and

withdrawing the cord blood from the umbilical using the blood extraction device.

Claim 35 (original): The method of claim 34 further comprising:

stopping the withdrawal of cord blood; and

withdrawing the insertion member from the umbilical cord.

Claim 36 (currently amended): A shielding device comprising:

a cradle member, the cradle member being configured so ~~one a planar bottom~~ portion thereof is held in a hand of a user, without any downwardly extending portions at ends thereof, ~~so and another portion thereof of the cradle member~~ receives the a body portion, ~~and so~~ a digit of the user's hand secures the body portion in the another portion while holding the cradle member;

wherein said another portion includes a surface recess extending along an axis of the cradle member, in which recess is received the body portion;

wherein the recess and said ~~one bottom~~ portion are configured so as to be arcuate in cross-section and

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wherein the shielding device does not include portions for fastening the body member to the shielding device.

Claim 37 (currently amended): A cord blood collection device kit comprising:

a shielding device including a cradle member, the cradle member being configured and arranged so ~~one a planar bottom~~ portion thereof is held in a hand of a user, without any downwardly extending portions at ends thereof, so and another portion ~~thereof of the cradle member~~ receives an umbilical cord, and so a digit of the user's hand secures and stabilizes the umbilical cord in said another portion while holding the cradle member;

a needle and syringe to withdraw cord blood from the umbilical cord, the needle being configured to be inserted into the umbilical cord;

wherein said another portion includes a surface recess extending along an axis of the cradle member that is ~~configures configured~~ and arranged to receive the umbilical cord therein and wherein the recess is arcuate in cross-section and

wherein the shielding device does not include portions for fastening the umbilical cord to the shielding device.